

Beloved Adhyapya:

Heretofore, in our studies, we have been considering the normal course of Transition, but if we are to understand the real nature of Death and its problems, we must also consider what takes place if the Processes of Death do not run their normal course, and the Soul fails to obtain release from the bonds of Matter and lingers in the intermediate state. The Pathologies of the Death Process can occur at two points, the state of the mind of the person about to depart may be such as to prevent him from falling into Sleep of Death, or, having passed out safely, he may either refuse or be unable to pass on to the Second Death and lingers indefinitely in the intermediate state, becoming more and more abnormal as time goes on. There are a number of different forms of each of these Pathologies which I must consider in detail in order to explain the subject to you. It is not particularly a pleasant or cheerful subject, but it is necessary, for you are students, learning, and the best way to learn to overcome fear is to face it. We never know when we may be brought face to face with these problems. The understanding of their nature robs them of the superstitious terror with which they are invested in popular thought, and brings them within the sphere of those things which we know we can take and deal with.

The spirit in which a person faces Death is all-important in determining the harmony, or otherwise, of the Death Processes. Just as the unborn child "presents" at the Gate of Life, that is, the bony girdle of the Pelvic Arch, and its birth is normal or abnormal, according to the manner of its presentation, so does the outgoing Soul "present" at the Gates of Death, and just as he should enter Life head first, so should he, also go out of it with the Higher Levels of Consciousness detached from earthly things and drawing the Lower Centers after them. For the Lower Consciousness to be forced out by the old, collapsing body before the Higher Consciousness has gained a foothold in the Unseen is a rather trying experience. Psychics frequently meet Souls upon the Inner Planes who have gone thru this experience, and they are invariably confused and distressed, more or less lost in their Mental Conception of things, until they are enabled to make their adjustments and take hold upon the New Life. A large proportion of the Service that is given upon the Inner Planes is directed to rounding up these Wandering Souls and helping them to find their own place. It is for this reason that the Church prays that we may be saved from sudden Death, for the Soul needs to make its preparations before withdrawing from the body.

The Soul of the man who is killed instantaneously, or who dies without recovering Consciousness has certain difficulties to overcome which do not beset the person who dies naturally and gradually. There are those on the Inner Planes, however, whose work it is to deal with Innocent Souls thus flung violently out of Life and to minimize their distress. Psychics tell us that these "Watchers" hover like hawks in the hither hereafter, watching for out-coming Souls and then go on the swift wings of Thought to those who show any sign of such distress. It is rare that a Soul will come out into the next Life who has not found some friend who has already passed over to welcome him, but if he has been ejected violently, as it were, from the Plane of Earth and is thrust out backward, struggling or resisting, his face is turned toward the Plane which he has left, and he cannot



be induced to turn around and look toward the Plane upon which he is entering. It is a case of mal-presentation upon the Plane of Death, and skillful care is needed to restore normality.

The man who fears Death greatly is liable to thus mal-present and he is born into the next Life with suffering, difficulty, and danger. If he fights up to his last breath, the Great Anesthetist may be unable to get in his merciful work and that Soul goes thru the Death Processes in full Consciousness. Such souls generally fail to realize that they have died, they are accustomed to look upon Death as synonymous with the extinction of Consciousness, and if they find themselves still conscious and still retain, in their own Imagination, at any rate, the same body they have always had, tho devoid of sensation or weight, it takes some persuasion to convince them that they have passed thru the Gates of Death and are disembodied, they see themselves still as having their accustomed form and cannot be made to realize that it is only a Thought-Form in their Imagination, and that nobody else can see it unless he is Psychic. They naturally associate this Form with their familiar haunts, and because they think of themselves as being there, they are there and can be perceived by Psychics, and hence, by any of their friends who are at all Sensitive, often with very unfortunate results.

The person who sees Death coming knows, however, what to expect, and when he awakes from the Sleep of Death, he is well prepared to find himself without the Physical Body, and so has no difficulty in making his adjustment. In fact, people who have been on the very verge of Death and returned again have often reported that when they recovered Consciousness they were amazed to find that they were alive, that at first they could not be convinced that they had not died.

But the man who does not know that he is dead naturally receives a shock when he finds that he is impalpable to those with whom he expects to be able to get into touch. He may speak to the Watchers at the bedside and they do not answer him, to him they are ghosts and he is overwhelmed with confusion. He may wander from place to place in his familiar haunts, seeking to reach those he knows, but they turn a deaf ear to him. Presently, however, he may find one who, being Psychic, is aware of his presence, and now we come to an important question, especially important to the readers of this lecture, who, being interested in the subject and giving these subjects their attention, are in possession of some degree, at least, of Awareness of the Unseen, often, in fact, more than you may realize.

Naturally, one who is Psychic must be extremely careful how he deals with the panic-stricken disembodied Souls, for they may find themselves in the same situation as the would-be-rescuer in a drowning. The wisest thing to do, perhaps, until you have more experience is to refuse to attempt a rescue for which you may be ill-equipped, and too, rather, go quickly and bring help, asking the services of one who is equipped with the necessary knowledge and who will take the Wandering Soul in hand and help him to adjust himself and go on with Death's Journey into the Fuller Life, for remember this, once the Soul has crossed the "Great Divide", the way of Life lies ahead, not behind.

The one thing to do is to thrust the Soul off from the Earth-Plane and by all means in our Power try to prevent him from obtaining a foothold upon that dark and slippery Shore that leads down into the Waters of Lethe, and make him turn around and push to the



other bank, whether he likes it or not. It is the kindest thing to do, however he may fight against it; and that swim is well within his own Powers, if he will but try. With each stroke that takes him from the dark shores of Death in Life, he is nearer to the Life after Death, he is struggling from Darkness to Dawn, and the Way becomes brighter as he advances upon it.

Do not let us fear the Dead when they come to us, but do not let us allow a panic-stricken disembodied Entity to clutch us around the neck like a drowning man in his efforts to remain on the Plane of Form. Such is really only cowardice, and while it may evoke our Pity, it cannot command our Sympathy, and we ought not to pander to it. To do so is not to help him, but to condemn him to a much more terrible fate, the fate of the Earth-Bound. At all costs, he must be made to let go his hold on the Plane of Form and induced to set out upon his Journey to the "Great Light", which shall enlighten even his darkened Consciousness.

The man who dies an accidental Death, passing out very suddenly from Life, in full possession of his Faculties, is usually dazed but not distressed, because Death has come so quickly. He feels nothing and his Mind is more or less a blank, or working very slowly and disconnectedly. The newspapers often remark upon the extraordinary fortitude of those who have been severely injured in an accident. Of course, anyone who has ever been in an accident knows that the shock is its own anesthetic and the pain and collapse do not come until some time later. Often people do not know that they are injured until someone draws their attention to the fact. The severity of the injuries is almost invariably in inverse ratio to the screaming. In some cases of head injury, a person will linger for days or even sometimes weeks before finally passing out. In such cases, they are, for the most part, as deeply unconscious upon the Inner Planes as they are upon the Physical Plane, but towards the end of the time, when the body is getting ready to set the Soul free, there may be brief periods in which they sense the Inner Planes more or less dimly.

In a case of this kind, the out-going Soul can be very greatly helped by the Rites of the Dying, even if unconscious, and there should be Prayer at the bedside, if possible. Even when there is deep Unconsciousness, this should be kept until they breathe their last breath. If unable to be present at the bedside in the Flesh -- imagine yourself to be there in the Spirit, and you will be present in the Spirit. The out-going Soul, waking to Psychic Consciousness, will see you, even if the by-standers do not. A great deal of help can be given in this way, and the Soul is prepared Subconsciously for departure, even when there is no conscious direct preparation.

In the Bonds of the Eternal Brotherhood.